

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-8 are pending. By this Response, claims 1-3 and 6-8 are amended and claim 5 is cancelled. Reconsideration and allowance based on the above amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the indication of claims 1-4 and 6-8 as being allowable. Applicants note that claims 1-3 and 6-8 have been amended only to remove the “means” language. The claims maintain their features deemed allowable over the prior art. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-3 and 6-8 are still in condition for allowance.

Prior Art Rejection

The Office Action rejects claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kambayashi et al. (US 2003/0004888). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants note that claim 5 has been cancelled from the application. Accordingly, the rejection is now moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Prompt allowance of the application is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is requested to contact Chad J. Billings, Reg. No. 48,917 at the telephone number of (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any

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additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: October 3, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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